Sekine's Love

Volume 5, Ch.26

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CH.26

WANDERING DIRGE

A woman's heart.
What she's really thinking.
Makeup she would love.
Shit!
The rules of love.
But if I want to study the material...
RUSTLE
Most of the pages are in pink or red.
First of all... the colors...
All of the titles sound so stereotypical too..

Where did I go wrong?
"Then.. Why don't we go out somewhere, just the two of us?"

"I don't think I can bear it."
"It's annoying."
STAB!

GLOOM
GLOOM
...
...
...
THROB
THROB
THROB
GLOOM
GLOOM
Good morning!
I can't believe I caused...
in formal occasions, I wouldn't have to suffer so much.
...a clear instruction manual to help me understand proper etiquette or how to behave...
her annoyance without knowing that I did.
...
CLACK
CLACK
FLIP
WHRRRRR
If I had...

So then, what happened?
TRRRRR... TRRRR...
So what? I'm completely useless without a manual...?
click click click
You know, with the guy on reserve
on reserve?
It went nowhere
He was in his own world and it pissed me off, so I'm ignoring him for now
I agreed to go out for a drive the other day.
FUCK
He sucked at driving along with everything else, and he was such a wimp
WHOOSH...
Unbelievable!

Chatter
Chatter
Huh? That's Sekine-san!
Isn't it unusual for him to come to the cafeteria?
Should I ask him to share a table with us?
Absolutely not! I wouldn't be able to slurp my udon with him sitting at point-blank range
If you're not dating yet, then get him something that won't freak him out
Like what?
A loofah, or something
You're kidding?
Did he get the B Special? Yes! We got the same thing!
If you want him, let the gift do the talking

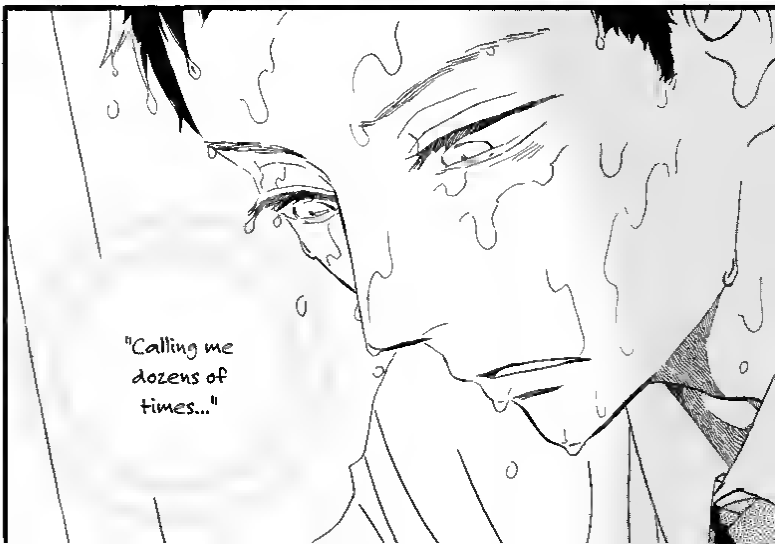
He showed up at our meeting place with this really lame Ketyushe print outfit
You could tell he was lame just by the photo
None of this...
I find it cute that he's hairy and sometimes, his eyebrows connect like a unibrow
Okay, okay... Thanks for the meal
Chat, chat, chat
Like, she already has someone
No way?
Is it bad that things actually worked out though?
It's so childish to confess by belting out a Chage and Aska song to a girl at a karaoke, right?
Wow, just wow.
buzz
How'd your group date go?
It's fun if you like drinking
And then I was, like, I won't forgive you unless you eat this eraser
So, like, I fought with my boyfriend the other day...
Right now
...can be used for reference.
...what I want to know is.

Aa-and
youuu
who is it thaaat
looove?
Hey, it's been chiming the whole time
What are you doing now?
Where are you now?
Whose phone is that?
The supervisors were there just a while ago
That's the "ke-i-kan" girl that my dad loved
Is that a song from the Showa era?
Oh...
返却口

T/N The song is Hiroko Yakushi maru s "Anata o Motto Shiritakute" (I Want to Know You Better). The "ke-i-kan" phrase is most likely from the theme song she sang for her film role in Sailor Suit and Machine Gun in 1981. Nobody seems to know what she says at the end. One person even asked me, "Didn't she say 'pai-pan'?"

SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
AHHHHHHH!

Pop songs are scaaary!

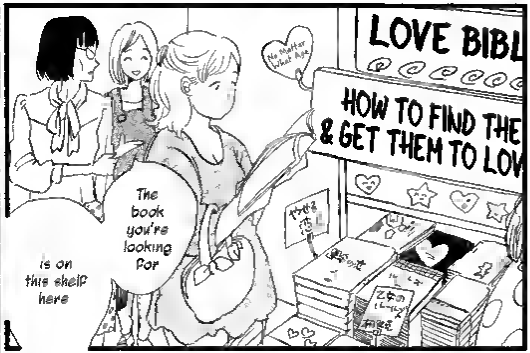

"Calling me dozens of times..."

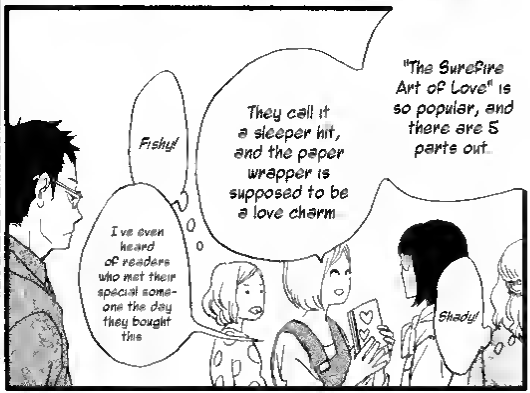
RUB
RUB
RUB
RUB
throb
throb
"...is annoying."
Dukkkhh
RUB
RUB
throb
throb
My stomach hurts.
...

In my head, I know he must have...
...just so he could apologize to me...
"I'm really sorry about the other night..."
He came by before going to work...
The way I'm acting seems like I'm just taking it out on him.
...his reason and circumstances
The more I get involved with Sekine-san...
the more I begin to
hate myself.

For now, I'll just pick up a book to read.

Swish...


LOVE BIBL
HOW TO FIND THE
& GET THEM TO LOV
No matter what age,
The book you're looking for is on this shelf here


"The SurePire Art of Love" is so popular, and there are 5 parts out.
They call it a sleeper hit, and the paper wrapper is supposed to be a love charm.
Fishy!
I've even heard of readers who met their special someone the day they bought this.
Shady!

BUZZ...
FLIP FLIP FLIP
Bringing in Luck to Up Your A-Game!
Getting Ready Practice
I can't fail this time, especially not after educating myself!
FLIP FLIP FLIP
But
He's the one I'm supposed to meet today?
What if, by chance,
A prank?
Hidden camera?
A gentleman is holding THAT book right before my eyes...
FLIP
A salesman sent by the publisher?
A fake buyer?
FLIP
LOVE BIBLE
We'll take one to the register too!

You're still here.....
SLUMP
FLASH
Dummy.
Even if Kozue's dad comes after me...
We should just get drunk and go to a Capsule Hotel.
I doubt I'll be punished for that

BAR
What are you reading? A novel?
...
It's my first time here
Hahaha! Sekine-san, you come here often too?
What an unlucky day...